IN 4 MONTHS ... TIME RUNS OUT!

SECRET WARS

NEW AVENGERS®

MARVEL

HICKMAN
WALKER
HANNA
MARTIN

029

PREVIOUSLY IN NEW AVENGERS

ON AN ALTERNATE EARTH AN EVENT OCCURRED THAT CAUSED THE EARLY DEATH OF A UNIVERSE. THIS CAUSED A TINY CONTRACTION, SMASHING TWO UNIVERSES TOGETHER AT THE INCURSION POINT OF THE INITIAL EVENT.

EACH INCURSION LASTS EIGHT HOURS, AFTER WHICH EITHER BOTH WORLDS ARE DESTROYED OR ONLY ONE EARTH IS SACRIFICED, SPARING BOTH UNIVERSES.

WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO DETECT WHEN AN INCURSION IS COMING, HOWEVER...INFINITE WORLDS, INFINITE OUTCOMES. IF THIS COULD EASILY BE STOPPED, IT SHOULD HAVE BEEN STOPPED.

THE MAD THINKER HAS FOUND A WAY TO FIND OUT WHO IS BEHIND THIS. NOW I HAVE A PLAN, AND ALL THE PIECES TO BRING IT TO PASS...

...THANKS TO THE ***MOLECULE MAN!***

LET THERE BE SUFFERING AND WOE TO ALL WHO STAND IN DOOM'S WAY.

I'VE BEEN HERE FOR MONTHS NOW, AND I FOUND YOUR LITTLE SECRET.

YOU'RE JUMPING FROM WORLD TO WORLD, LOOKING FOR A REFUGE SO YOU CAN REGROW YOUR LOVED ONES AND GET YOUR FAMILY BACK.

YOU FORGET, TONY STARK, I WAS THERE THE LAST TIME YOU TRIED TO BE A HERO. I WATCHED YOU FALL. AND THEN THE CABAL PUT YOU HERE...IN THIS CAGE.

WHAT WOULD YOU HAVE DONE IF IT HAD BEEN THE SINNU SARRUM... THE ***IVORY KINGS?***

THERE IS NO ESCAPING THIS.

I WANT IT CLEAR, THIS DOESN'T END WITHOUT YOU ILLUMINATI ANSWERING FOR WHAT YOU DID.

IT COULDN'T BE AVOIDED, DESTROYING THAT FIRST WORLD. IT HAD TO BE DONE. BUT IT WAS ***WRONG***. AND I SHOULD ANSWER FOR THAT.

AND THE REST OF YOU THAT WERE THERE?

WHERE IS HE, T'CHALLA? WHERE'S NAMOR?

THE CABAL IS DESTROYED. HE'S NOT COMING.

S.H.I.E.L.D. AVENGERS

STEVE ROGERS

HAWKEYE

MARIA HILL

WAR MACHINE

INVISIBLE WOMAN

CAPTAIN AMERICA

CAPTAIN MARVEL

THE ILLUMINATI

BEAST

HULK/ DOC GREEN

REED RICHARDS

BLACK BOLT

BLACK PANTHER

CAPTAIN BRITAIN

AMADEUS CHO

IRON MAN

DOCTOR STRANGE

NEW AVENGERS

SUNSPOT

CANNONBALL

SMASHER

MANIFOLD

BLACK WIDOW

SPIDER-WOMAN

SHANG-CHI

VALIDATOR

POD

ZEBRA KIDS

A.I.M.

MULTIVERSAL AVENGERS

HYPERION

ODINSON

STARBRAND

NIGHTMASK

ABYSS

EX NIHILO

THE CABAL

NAMOR

THANOS

BLACK SWAN

TERRAX

MAXIMUS

PROXIMA MIDNIGHT

CORVUS GLAIVE

DOCTOR DOOM

MOLECULE MAN

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THE NECROPOLIS.
WAKANDA.

SOMETHING BAD HAPPENED HERE.

LATER.

WHEN YOU LOOK OUT AT ALL THIS--ALL THAT WE HAD A HAND IN...

...WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT, MY FRIEND?

THAT WE ARE ALMOST AT THE END, BUT BEFORE WE REACH IT, THERE IS EVEN WORSE COMING.

I WISH I COULD SAY SOMETHING ELSE, BUT THAT'S THE TRUTH... AND WE DON'T HAVE MUCH ELSE LEFT.

SHOULD I EVEN ASK WHAT ***YOU*** THINK, T'CHALLA?

I THINK YOU ARE RIGHT.

AND I BELIEVE WITH EACH PASSING DAY I GROW MORE AND MORE READY TO FACE IT.

OUR COMPANY JUST ARRIVED.

ARE YOU GOING TO TELL THEM EVERYTHING?

YES.

"IT'S THE TRUTH...

"WHAT ELSE DO WE HAVE?"

LATER.

SO WHAT IS IT WE'RE LOOKING AT?

WE HAVE THEORIES...

BUT IF I'M BEING COMPLETELY HONEST, WE'RE NOT SURE.

WHAT WE *DO* KNOW IS THAT THIS HAS HAPPENED AT EVERY SINGLE FORMER INCURSION SITE ON THIS EARTH.

IT'S A RECENT DEVELOPMENT THAT VARIOUS WORLD GOVERNMENTS, IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE CABAL, HAD KEPT QUIET, BUT GIVEN THE NEW STATUS QUO...

...SUNSPOT AND HIS TEAM HAVE BEEN ABLE TO GAIN ACCESS, HENCE THE FOOTAGE WE HAVE HERE.

WHO WOULD HAVE GUESSED POLITICIANS LOVED MONEY SO MUCH?

THE PERTINENT POINT BEING...

...EARLY A.I.M. DATA INDICATES THAT THE APPEARANCE OF THESE DOMES ROUGHLY COINCIDES WITH WHAT WAS THE CATALYST OF OUR RECENT ACTIVITY.

YOU MEAN THE WAY YOU MOVED EVERYONE AROUND THE BOARD AS YOU SAW FIT...

...AND HOW IT ENDED WITH A MAN'S MURDER?

YOU KNOW THAT WASN'T MY INTENTION.

WHAT ABOUT YOU, T'CHALLA?

DID YOU GET WHAT YOU WANTED?

WE SIT WITHIN EYESIGHT OF THE SMOLDERING RUINS OF MY NATION, BARTON.

I DIDN'T GET ANYTHING I WANTED. I HAVEN'T FOR QUITE SOME TIME.

WELL, WHAT *I* WANT...

...IS FOR ALL OF YOU TO STAY ON TASK, WITH YOUR HEAD IN THE HERE AND NOW.

I KNOW IT'S HARD TO HEAR, BUT NO ONE CARES ABOUT YOUR SINS OR ANGER...OR EVEN YOUR REGRET.

I ***WOULD*** CARE...BUT WE DON'T HAVE TIME.

TIME. YES.

THAT'S WHAT EVERYONE NEEDS TO UNDERSTAND. I THINK THERE'S AN UNDENIABLE SIGNIFICANCE TO THESE SEEMINGLY UNCONNECTED EVENTS...I SPOKE OF A ***CATALYST***.

THERE'S A REASON FOR WHEN WE ACTED. IT WAS NECESSARY TO DO SO IN THE SHADOW OF A COMING INCURSION.

WE NEEDED THE URGENCY THAT THREAT PROVIDED.

BUT WHY ***THAT*** INCURSION? WHY AT THAT PARTICULAR TIME?

BECAUSE SOMETHING ELSE HAPPENED...

EVEN THOUGH WE WERE ON THE RUN FROM S.H.I.E.L.D. AND IN HIDING FROM THE CABAL, I MAINTAINED A MOBILE VERSION OF ***THE BRIDGE***, WHICH ENABLED US TO OBSERVE THE MULTIVERSE.

THE COLLAPSE CONTINUED--UNABATED--AND INCURSIONS HAD CLAIMED THE VAST MAJORITY OF UNIVERSES, BUT STILL HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS REMAINED.

THEN SOMETHING HAPPENED--I DON'T KNOW EXACTLY WHAT--BUT THE CURRENT NUMBER OF REMAINING UNIVERSES NOW STANDS AT ***LESS THAN TWO DOZEN.***

SO... TIME?

WE ARE ALL OUT OF TIME.

ELSEWHERE.

FWASSSHH

SERENITY CLEARS THE MIND, MISTER REECE... BUT THIS?

THIS IS NOTHING, AND NOTHING BUT DISQUIETING.

NOTHING ***NOW,*** BUT IF YOU LOOK BACKWARDS YOU'LL SEE THERE WAS ***SOMETHING.***

I LIVED HERE ONCE. SOME SMALL BIT OF ME CALLED IT HOME.

YOU WANTED TO SEE WHERE IT ALL STARTED... WELL, HERE IT IS, VICTOR...

OR DO YOU NEED TO SEE IT MORE CLEARLY?

YES.

THEN YOU'LL NEED TO GET BUSY. I CAN SHOW YOU THE WAY, BUT I CAN'T OPEN THE DOOR.

DO YOU KNOW WHAT THIS IS, VICTOR?

I DO.

EVERYONE HAS LIMITS...

...EVERYONE BUT *DOOM*.

I'VE BUILT YOUR *DOOR*, MISTER REECE...

...CAN YOU SHOW US THE WAY NOW THAT I'VE OPENED IT?

THE WAY IS DOWN, VICTOR...

...ALL THE WAY DOWN.

"A DOZEN?"

ONLY A *DOZEN* UNIVERSES LEFT?

TWO DOZEN, MANIFOLD. WELL, JUST UNDER...

CURRENTLY TWENTY-TWO, I THINK...BUT PROJECTIONS GET FUZZY WITH THE VARIABLES WE'RE TALKING ABOUT.

WELL, WHAT DOES THAT *MEAN?*

ACTUALLY...

WHY DON'T WE SKIP THE EXPLANATIONS AND JARGON, REED? SINCE, AS YOU SAY, WE'RE OUT OF TIME...

...JUST TELL US WHAT YOUR PLAN IS.

MY PLAN FOR WHAT?

YOUR PLAN FOR WHAT?

WHAT THE HELL DO YOU *THINK?* HOW TO STOP THIS!

YOU *DO* HAVE A PLAN, RIGHT?

I THINK I REMEMBER THE *IMPLICATION* OF A PLAN. AT THE VERY LEAST SOME *VAGUE PROMISE* OF A PLAN.

WHAT ELSE WERE YOU DOING ALL THESE MONTHS WHEN THE CABAL WAS BUYING YOU TIME WITH WHOLESALE SLAUGHTER IF YOU WEREN'T FIGURING THAT OUT?!

RUNNING FROM OUR FRIENDS.

YEAH. WE ALL FEEL JUST TERRIBLE ABOUT THAT.

REED?

IF YOU STARE AT ALL THIS LONG ENOUGH, YOU START BELIEVING IT MIGHT MEAN SOMETHING THAT IT DOESN'T.

BUT THAT ISN'T REAL, STEVE.

IT ISN'T REAL *AT ALL.*

THERE WILL BE ANOTHER INCURSION. AND ANOTHER...BUT THERE HAVE BEEN *CHANGES.*

CHANGES SIGNIFICANT ENOUGH THAT WE PUT INTO ACTION ALL THE MACHINATIONS YOU WERE SWEPT UP IN.

CHANGES LIKE WHAT?

OUR ODDS ARE BETTER.

ANYTHING ELSE?

WE'VE RUN A LOT OF SIMULATIONS--AND I COULD BE WRONG, BECAUSE WE'RE TALKING ABOUT COLLAPSING SPACE-TIME ACROSS THE MULTIVERSE--BUT WE'VE LEARNED A LOT ABOUT PREDICTING ***WHEN*** AN INCURSION'S GOING TO HAPPEN...

AND THERE APPEARS TO BE A SILVER LINING.

WHICH IS?

REED AND I THINK THAT WE'RE GOING TO MISS THEM ALL...

EXCEPT ONE.

THE LAST ONE.

AND THEN WHAT HAPPENS?

WE HAVE NO IDEA.

CAN I ASK YOU SOMETHING? AND I DON'T MEAN TO BE THIS WAY, BUT WHY HAVEN'T YOU ACTUALLY DONE ANYTHING?

AND I'M NOT TALKING ABOUT THEORY, OR RUNNING EXPERIMENTS IN A LAB... I'M TALKING ABOUT ACTUALLY ***DOING SOMETHING.***

WHILE SHE WAS OUR PRISONER, THE BLACK SWAN OUTLINED SOME POSSIBLE WAYS TO SURVIVE INCURSIONS. WE NARROWED THOSE DOWN TO WHAT WE CONSIDERED BOTH HUMANE AND ACHIEVABLE.

WE STARTED WITH A COSMIC CUBE.

"WE TRIED MAKING WORLDS--A SERIES OF ***EXODUS PLANETS.***

"OUR THINKING WAS, BLOW UP OUR OWN EARTH PREVENTING FURTHER INCURSIONS AND MOVE THE POPULATION TO EXODUS PRIME WHERE WE COULD CONDUCT OPERATIONS TO SAVE THE MULTIVERSE WITHOUT A 'TICKING CLOCK.'

"BUT ONE OF THE STARS WE PICKED--LIKE SO MANY ARE DOING NOW--EXPERIENCED AN EARLY DEATH.

"AND WE LOST THE CUBE.

"WE TRIED METAPHYSICAL APPROACHES--EVEN GETTING ***GALACTUS*** TO HELP ARRANGE AN AUDIENCE WITH ***THE CELESTIALS***--BUT AFTER WHAT SEEMED TO BE PROGRESS IN GAINING THEIR ASSISTANCE...

"THEY ALL SIMPLY DISAPPEARED.

"THEN WE TRIED MULTIVERSAL SOLUTIONS...WHICH WAS ***BEYOND*** A DISASTER.

"I WOULDN'T WISH WHAT HAPPENED TO BRADDOCK ON ANYONE."

AND THERE WERE... OTHER ATTEMPTS.

"BUT THEY ALSO FAILED."

OVER THE PAST MONTHS WE ALL HAVE PAID.

BUT WHILE YOU WERE PLAYING HERO, WE WERE PLAYING GOD.

OUR COSTS WERE MUCH, MUCH HIGHER.

OKAY. BUT WHAT ABOUT CAUSE...

IF THERE AREN'T ANY SOLUTIONS...ARE YOU ANY CLOSER TO FIGURING OUT WHO--OR WHAT--IS BEHIND THIS?

WE TRIED QUITE A FEW--

HUH...

ISN'T THAT JUST LIKE THE UNIVERSE?

ONE LAST GASP...

HE'S BACK.

WHO'S BACK?

REED, WHO ARE YOU--

TONY AND I SENT SOMEONE OUT INTO THE MULTIVERSE TO FIND ANSWERS ALMOST EIGHT MONTHS AGO.

HE WAS ONLY SUPPOSED TO BE GONE A SHORT WHILE--WEEKS--SO I ASSUMED HE WAS LOST FOREVER.

BUT NOW HE'S RETURNED TO US.

REED...

HOME?

AM... I REALLY... REALLY *HOME?*

YES, HANK... YOU'RE HOME.

YOU MADE IT BACK.

BACK HOME. THANK GOD.

REED.

REED, I FOUND... I FOUND...

RABUM ALAL? YOU SUCCEEDED? YOU FOUND HIM?

THE GREAT DESTROYER?

NO. NOT THE DESTROYER.

THE... THE *IVORY KINGS.*

IVORY KINGS.

THE WHITE LORDS FROM WILD SPACE. FROM OUT THERE...

FROM BEYOND...

I FOUND...

...THE BEYONDERS.

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